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Letter dated 4 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith remarks made by a leading official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China to further elaborate on China's position on the political resolution of the Syrian issue (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session under agenda item 36, and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Li** Baodong
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Annex to the letter dated 4 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

A leading official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs makes remarks to further elaborate on China's position on the political resolution of the Syrian issue

China follows closely the developments of the situation in Syria, firmly maintains that the current crisis should be resolved through political dialogue in a peaceful and appropriate manner, and has made unremitting efforts to this end.

It is deeply worrying that the situation in Syria remains grave. Violent clashes are continuing, political dialogue still cannot start, and the prospects of a peaceful settlement to the crisis are still dim. China is a responsible country and a friend of the Arab people, including the Syrian people. China adheres to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms governing international relations. China is committed to upholding the independence, the sovereignty, the unity and the territorial integrity of Syria, peace and stability in the Middle East, and peace and tranquillity of the whole world. In order to realize a political settlement of the Syrian issue at an early date, China advocates and appeals for the following:

1. The Syrian Government and all parties concerned should immediately, fully and unconditionally cease all acts of violence, particularly violence against innocent civilians. Various factions in Syria should express political aspirations through non-violent means.

2. The Syrian Government and various factions should bear in mind the long-term and fundamental interests of their country and people, immediately launch an inclusive political dialogue with no preconditions attached or outcome predetermined through impartial mediation of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League, agree on a comprehensive and detailed road map and timetable for reform through consultation and implement them as soon as possible with a view to restoring national stability and public order.

3. China supports the leading role of the United Nations in coordinating humanitarian relief efforts. China maintains that, under the precondition of respecting Syria's sovereignty, the United Nations or an impartial body acceptable to all parties should make an objective and comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian situation in Syria, and ensure the delivery and the distribution of humanitarian aid. China is ready to provide humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people. We oppose anyone interfering in Syria's internal affairs under the pretext of "humanitarian" issues.

4. Relevant parties of the international community should earnestly respect the independence, the sovereignty, the unity and the territorial integrity of Syria and the right of the Syrian people to independently choose their political system and development path, create conditions and provide necessary and constructive assistance for the various political factions of Syria to launch dialogue, and respect

the outcome of dialogue. China does not approve of armed interference or pushing for "regime change" in Syria, and believes that use or threat of sanctions does not help to resolve this issue appropriately.

5. China welcomes the appointment of the Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian crisis by the United Nations and the Arab League and supports him in playing a constructive role in bringing about the political resolution of the crisis. China supports the active efforts made by the Arab states and the Arab League to promote a political solution to the crisis.

6. Members of the Security Council should strictly abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms governing international relations. As a permanent member of the Security Council, China is ready to earnestly fulfil its responsibilities and to engage in even-handed, patient and full consultation with other parties on the political solution to the Syrian crisis in an effort to safeguard the unity of the Security Council.